

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An isolated and purified biologically active Ring box protein comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1.
- 2-6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously presented) A recombinant Ring box protein comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1.
- 8-23. (Canceled)
24. (Previously presented) The Ring box protein of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is human.
25. (Previously presented) A Ring box protein according to Claim 7, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
26. (Previously presented) A Ring box protein according to Claim 7, prepared by the method of culturing a cell containing an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 under conditions suitable for expression of the nucleic acid molecule.
27. (Previously presented) A protein complex comprising the Ring box protein of Claim 1 or Claim 7.
28. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim 27, further comprising one or more proteins selected from the group consisting of a cullin protein, a substrate recognition protein, and a linker protein.

29. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim 28 wherein the complex is a ubiquitin ligase protein complex.

30. (Previously presented) The protein complex of Claim 29 wherein the ubiquitin ligase protein complex is selected from the group consisting of SCF and VHL.

31. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim 29 wherein the cullin protein is selected from the group consisting of Cdc53, Cullin 1, Cullin 2, Cullin 3, Cullin 4A, Cullin 4B, and Cullin 5.

32. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim 29 wherein the substrate recognition protein is selected from the group consisting of β -TRCP, Cdc4, Grr1, VHL and Elongin C binding proteins.

33. (Previously presented) The ubiquitin ligase protein complex of Claim 29 wherein the linker protein is selected from the group consisting of Skp 1 and Elongin C.